



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	504767
Inspection date	05 April 2006
Inspector	Tracey Marie Boland

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1996. His home is situated in a suburb of Coventry approximately three miles north-west of the city centre. Local schools are a short walk away as are shops and amenities. He lives with his wife and their four children; all aged over 16 years. His wife is also a registered childminder and they are both registered to work with assistants. Play space is available in the lounge and dining room and some activities take place in the kitchen. The large back garden is not currently used. The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under 8 when minding alone and

when minding with an assistant may care for 7 children under 8 years. Currently 3 children are cared for before and after school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, child-friendly environment. They learn the importance of appropriate hygiene practices and personal care through daily routines and are encouraged to wash their hands after toileting. Liquid soap is provided.

Children's needs are met at times of illness. Clear information is shared with parents which outlines when their child should not attend. Parents are informed they will be contacted and be expected to collect their child if he/she becomes unwell whilst in the care of the childminder. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and a stocked first aid box is easily accessible. Minor accidents are dealt with appropriately and the required documentation completed and shared with parents.

Individual dietary needs are known and respected. Children are encouraged to make healthy choices and enjoy cereals and toast for breakfast and a variety of fruits for snack time. Drinks of milk and water are freely available so they do not become thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is maintained through the appropriate safety steps that have been taken within the home environment. The childminder has identified potential risks and steps taken to minimise them. Children move freely and safely around the home and freely access toys and resources. They learn to keep themselves safe within the home and when out through consistent reinforcement and discussion. Children are aware of road safety, 'stranger danger' and not to approach dogs when out.

A clear fire evacuation procedure is in place and the children are aware of the action to take in an emergency situation however, the childminder has not yet practised this with the children, which may compromise their safety in the event of a fire.

Children's welfare is well protected through the childminder's understanding of his role and responsibility with regard to child protection issues. He keeps his knowledge and understanding up to date by accessing appropriate training through the local authority. Children are supervised at all times and not left unattended with people who have not been vetted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and confident. Clear relationships have been formed with the childminder and interaction is good. Although children are cared for each day, it is for a limited time before and after school. A variety of suitable, age-appropriate resources are freely available and well maintained. Children are supported and encouraged by the childminder, who has an awareness of particular interests they may have and favourite activities are provided. Toys and resources include construction sets, dressing up, role play, books and puzzles. Time is spent playing board games and encouraging social skills.

Children are encouraged to talk about their day at school and their interests. They enjoy reflecting on things they have done with their families at the weekends. Children are independent in everyday routines and when using the bathroom.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about diversity and the wider world through discussion with the childminder. Resources which reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability are freely available and they share information about cultural and religious celebrations throughout the year, therefore learning to appreciate each other's similarities and differences. Children are respected and valued and receive individual care and attention to meet their individual needs.

Children are encouraged to feel good about themselves and enjoy activities that will encourage them to develop their skills. Children are well supported and encouraged to integrate because activities are adapted to ensure inclusion. The childminder has experience of caring for children with specific needs and understands the importance of working in partnership with parents to promote continuity of care.

Children benefit from clear and consistent communication between the childminder and their parents. This ensures continuity of care. Detailed information is obtained from parents during an initial settling-in period for each child. Clear communication takes place each day keeping them informed and up to date about their child's day. Clear verbal policies are shared with parents, this ensures they are aware of the care their child receives and of the service provided.

Children learn to share, take turns and consider others through the clear and consistent reinforcement of 'house rules'. Parents are involved in discussion about strategies for dealing with behaviour including tone of voice, distraction and discussion with the children at an appropriate level. Children learn to develop respect for themselves and others and receive praise and encouragement for their achievements.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled and relaxed in a well-organised home. Clear routines ensure

their needs are met effectively and they move freely around within a safe and secure environment. Procedures effectively promote the children's welfare, care and learning and the childminder's practice meets the individual needs of the children in his care.

All required information and consent from parents has been obtained. Records are well maintained, easily accessible and confidentiality maintained at all times. Good partnership with parents is enhanced through clear communication and the sharing of policies, which ensures parents are kept fully aware of the care provided. The childminder has a commitment to continually develop his skills and knowledge through regular training provided by the local authority.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure public liability insurance covered assistants. Insurance has been obtained and documentation includes permission from the parents for their child to be cared for by an assistant. This ensures that children's welfare is safeguarded.

The childminder was asked to develop the resources available that reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability. Resources are available that encourage the children's understanding of the wider world. Books, dolls and dressing up are readily available and discussion takes place with the children to encourage their understanding further.

The childminder was also asked to ensure that the garden was inaccessible to minded children which he has done by ensuring the back door access to the garden is secure at all times, therefore maintaining their safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure children are aware of the fire evacuation drill and have the opportunity to practise it.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk